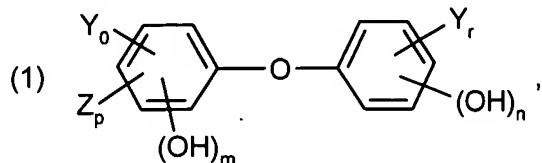


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with a composition comprising

from 0.001 to 10 % based on weight of said composition of component (a) which is a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula

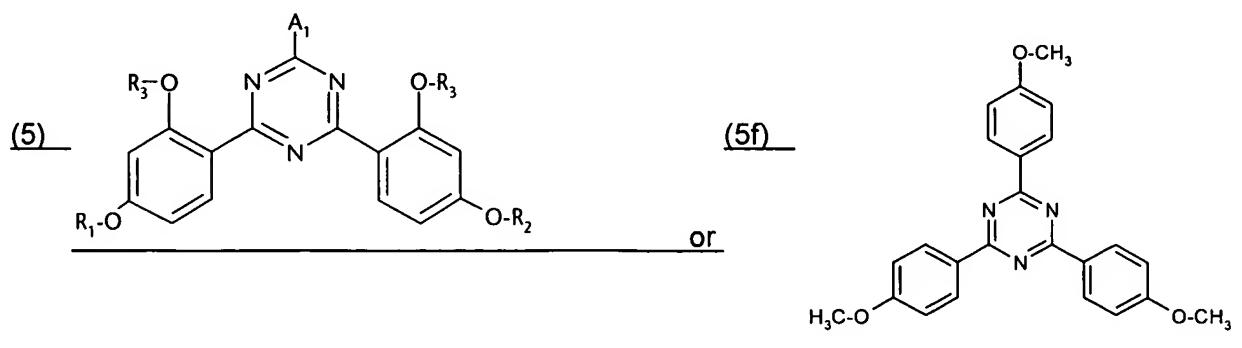


wherein

- Y is chlorine or bromine;
- Z is SO_2H , NO_2 ; or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl;
- m is 0 or 1;
- n is 1 or 2;
- r is from 0 to 3;
- o is from 1 to 3; and
- p is 0, 1 or 2;

from 0.05 to 1 % based on weight of said composition of component (b) which is a skin-lightening substance selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, quaiol, ellagic acid and ester compounds thereof and fluorescent whiteners; and

from 0.1 to 15 % based on weight of said composition of component (c) which is a triazine UV absorber compound of formula

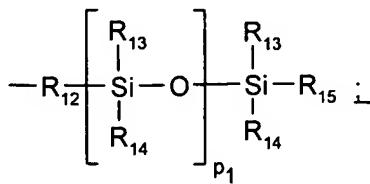


wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other C₁-C₁₈alkyl; C₂-C₁₈alkenyl; a radical of formula

-CH₂-CH(-OH)-CH₂-O-T₁ ; or

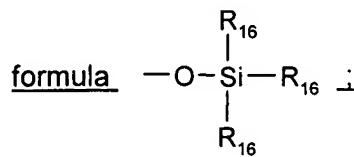
R₁ and R₂ are a radical of formula



R₁₂ is a direct bond; a straight-chain or branched C₁-C₄alkylene radical or a radical of formula

-C_{m₁}H_{2m₁} or -C_{m₁}H_{2m₁}O- ;

R₁₃, R₁₄ and R₁₅ are each independently of the others C₁-C₁₈alkyl; C₁-C₁₈alkoxy or a radical of

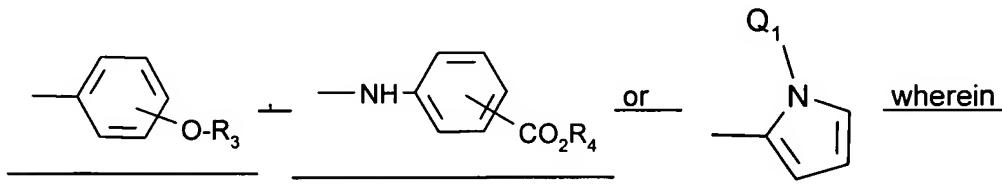


R₁₆ is C₁-C₅alkyl;

m₁ and m₃ are each independently of the other from 1 to 4;

p₁ is 0 or a number from 1 to 5;

A₁ is a radical of formula



R₃ is hydrogen; C₁-C₁₀alkyl, -(CH₂CHR₅-O)_{n₁}-R₄; or a radical of formula -CH₂-CH(-OH)-CH₂-O-T₁;

R₄ is hydrogen; M; C₁-C₅alkyl; or a radical of formula -(CH₂)_{m₂}-O-T₁ ;

R₅ is hydrogen; or methyl;

T₁ is hydrogen; or C₁-C₈alkyl;

Q₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl;

M is a metal cation;

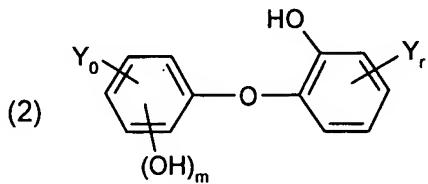
m₂ is from 1 to 4; and

n₁ is 1-16.

2. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1)

- m is 0; or 1;
- n is 1; or 2;
- o is from 1 to 3;
- p is 0; or 1; and
- r is 1 or 2.

3. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



wherein

- m is 0; or 1;
- o is from 1 to 3; and
- r is 1 or 2.

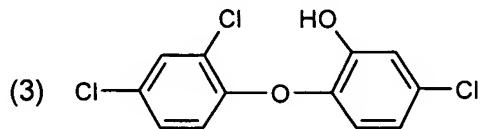
4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein in formula (2)

- m is 0;
- and o and r are as defined in claim 3.

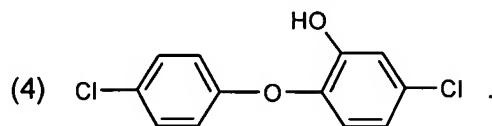
5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein

- o is 1 or 2; and
- r is 1.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



7. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



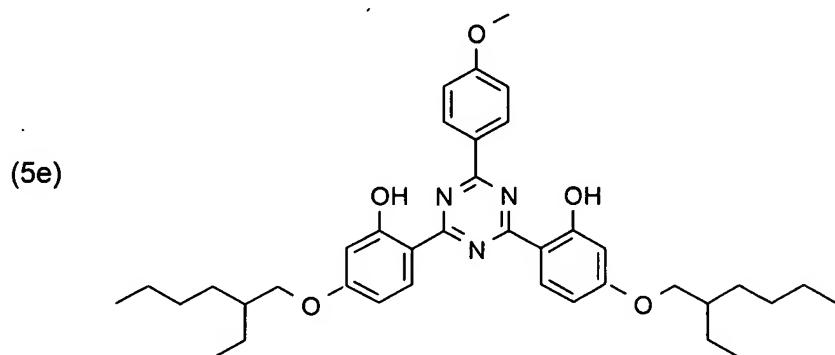
8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula (1) is used simultaneously for the antimicrobial treatment of the skin and mucosa and ~~also of integumentary appendages (hair)~~.

9-10. (cancelled).

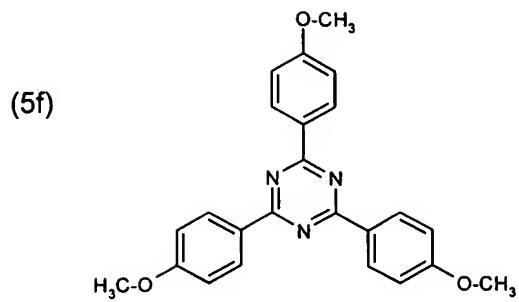
11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1[9], wherein the ratio of components (a) : (b) is from 1 : 99 to 99 : 1 [%] by weight.

12-13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended): A method according to claim 112, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



15. (currently amended): A method according to claim 112, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



16-29. (cancelled).